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IDEA 1169

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2 APR 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Field Activities

SUBJECT : Status of U-2 Product Improvements

REFERENCE : Memo to DAD/OEA from MD/OEA, Dated 8 March 1963,
Subject: U-2 Problems (IDEA 1112)

1. Following is the current status of U-2 product improvements referred to in the above memorandum:

a. Cockpit/Q-Bay Pressurization

25X1A5a1

The [REDACTED] Co. has produced the prototype of a stronger, more durable cockpit/Q-bay seal. It was installed on Article 352, 29 March 1963 for flight test. Results of the flight tests will be forthcoming in about 30 days.

b. DC Generator

25X1A5a1

The new [REDACTED] DC Generator has been flight tested on Article 352 for a total of 23 hours. Except for excessive brush wear, the generator has functioned satisfactorily. [REDACTED] has developed a new cord type brush which is expected to give up to 600 hours service. Design improvements are also being studied to increase the generator output under our operating environment. Flight testing will continue until all engineering requirements are satisfied. Hopefully, an ECP will be submitted in about 30 days.

25X1A5a1

c. Autopilot

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One proposal has been submitted to LAC [REDACTED] for evaluation. A second proposal is being developed by [REDACTED] --this is a take-off on the F-104 auto-pilot. This proposal should be submitted to LAC by about 1 May. No estimate is available yet from LAC as to the time required for production and flight test of a prototype. Best guess at this time is 3 - 4 months. We are programming this modification for FY-64.

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d. 750 VA Inverter

The [REDACTED] inverter suffered a brush failure in the initial flight test program. Reportedly, one of the brushes was installed incorrectly. Flight testing will be resumed with "correctly installed" brushes on 1 April. An ECP should follow in about 30 days.

e. AC Alternator [REDACTED]

25X1A5a1

Flight testing has been completed successfully. An ECP is being written and should be submitted by about 22 April.

2. Much of the engineering and flight test work on the above items has been delayed because of the DC Generator problems over the past 60 days. The brush problem is still not completely solved. However, at this writing, it appears that LAC should now move ahead with more dispatch on the above product improvements.

25X1A9a:GNEH

[REDACTED]
Chief, Materiel Division
OSA-DD/R

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MD/OSA-DD/R: [REDACTED]:ad

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